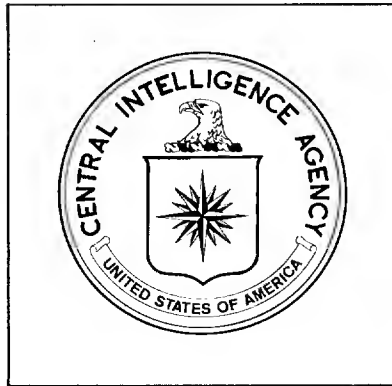


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No. 0258-75

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Approved For Release 2002/01/10 : CIA-RDP79T00865A001600340001-8

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WESTERN EUROPE – CANADA – INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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West Germans Reportedly Invite Spanish
Prime Minister to Bonn

A leading West German newspaper reported on August 21 that West German Chancellor Schmidt has invited Spanish Prime Minister Arias to visit Bonn. Quoting well-informed sources in Madrid, the paper states that Arias is expected to arrive in September. It would mark the first time that a Spanish prime minister has been received in West Germany.

We cannot confirm the invitation to Arias, but would not rule out the possibility. Schmidt and other government leaders are very concerned that the Portuguese experience may be repeated in Spain after Franco leaves the scene, and Bonn has sought to support the Arias government's efforts to introduce democratic measures in Spain. Last spring Schmidt requested his cabinet ministers to maintain contacts with their opposite numbers in Spain and to invite them to West Germany. In June, Interior Minister Maihofer hosted Carro Martinez, a minister in the office of the prime minister. Foreign Minister Genscher also met with Carro, at which time he emphasized that democratic forces in Spain should be allowed to organize and operate. Genscher visited Madrid in April, and invited Foreign Minister Cortina to visit Bonn. Cortina accepted, but has not yet gone to West Germany.

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Bonn is also indirectly providing funds to various parties and groups in Spain by channeling the money through the three major parties in West Germany, who pass it to their "sister" parties in Spain. Schmidt's Social Democratic Party, for instance, supports the Spanish Socialist Workers Party. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE ONLY/CONTROLLED DISSEM)

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Athens Preparing for Discussions with NATO
and US

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[REDACTED] has provided some insights into Athens' thinking as it prepares for the negotiations next month on the Greek role in NATO and the status of US bases.

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[REDACTED] claims that Prime Minister Karamanlis plans eventually to resume participation in NATO's integrated military command. The pace of the re-entry will be guided by domestic political considerations.

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[REDACTED] added that the final results of the negotiations on the US bases would also be favorable to the US, although the government would have to proceed cautiously with an eye on Greek public opinion. Any stalling or equivocation on Athens' part in the course of the talks would, according to

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[REDACTED] be a tactic aimed at buying time to prepare the Greek public.

The Karamanlis government last summer formally withdrew from the military side of the NATO alliance and announced that it intended to revise its bilateral defense relations with the US. Athens took this step following the wave of anti-NATO and anti-American sentiment that swept Greece after the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

Anti-US sentiment has diminished considerably since last summer but Karamanlis thus far has moved cautiously. Progress toward a

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Cyprus settlement would make it easier for Karamanlis to steer Greece slowly back into the alliance's integrated military command, but he may still consider it necessary to insist on special arrangements for the Greeks.

The negotiations on the US bases are not likely to lead to a drastic change in the US-Greek defense relationship, but the Greeks are determined to reduce the US presence in Greece and to give at least the appearance of Greek control over US facilities.

They have already terminated an agreement signed by the former military regime that permitted the use of the Athens area as a home port by some elements of the sixth fleet.
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Tension Remains High on Corsica

Violence continues on the French island of Corsica despite government efforts to restore order and squelch the autonomist movement. The interior minister threatened yesterday to send in the army.

Members of the "Action for the Rebirth of Corsica" (ARC) reacted angrily to the government's decision on August 27 to ban their organization. In the early hours of yesterday morning, another policeman was killed and more than a dozen others injured in violent rioting on the island. Another outlawed Corsican autonomist group, the "Peasant Liberation Front," has also threatened to increase its bombing attacks.

Police reinforcements continue to pour in from the mainland. According to press and radio reports, they include at least one unit of gendarmerie paratroops, two squadrons of armored cars and 20 plainclothes men from the crack anti-terrorist brigade in Paris. More than 3,000 policemen are now patrolling the island and Corsican police officials have described the situation as "insurrectional."

Further violence can be expected, especially if the government metes out stiff sentences to the autonomist leader, Dr. Edmond Simeoni, and other members of the outlawed organization. Simeoni, who surrendered after the gunbattle on August 22, appeared on August 27 before France's State Security Council--which tries political crimes--where he was charged with leading

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an armed insurrection against the state, kidnaping, and attempted murder of policemen-- crimes punishable by death. A government spokesman has announced that a tough line will be taken with Simeoni and the ten other ARC leaders now under arrest.

The French government's determination to maintain strict control in Corsica was underlined last Monday when the prime minister, along with the defense and interior ministers, all attended the funerals of the two policemen killed in the August 22 shoot-out. With the national economic news more depressing every day and the threat of a "hot autumn" looming on the horizon, the French government has no choice but to act quickly and firmly to try to quell the disturbances in Corsica.

At the same time, President Giscard will doubtless pay lip service to the concept of "regional reform." Yesterday in a move clearly intended to appease the islanders, the French president replaced the two top government representatives on the island with senior civil servants of Corsican origin. Corsican autonomists, however, have made it clear that they will not accept economic and social solutions to what they see as a clearly political problem. They want control over the island's domestic affairs--a step that would require changing the French constitution.

In addition to restoring order on the island, the Paris government must also try to prevent the "Corsican problem" from spreading to the mainland. The 100,000 Corsicans who live in Marseille have so far refrained from activity supporting the autonomist cause, but the city--already a hot-bed of racial tension--could easily erupt into violence.

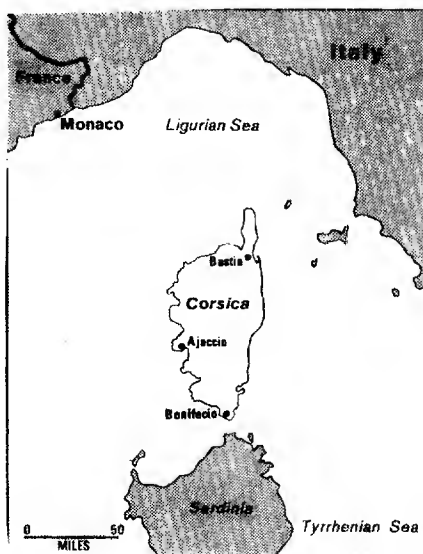
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There is also a danger that other French separatist movements--in Brittany and the Basque area--could step up their campaigns, encouraged by the Corsican example. Breton terrorists have already claimed that two recent bombings in Brittany were carried out in solidarity with the Corsican militants.

Other regions, such as Alsace-Lorraine, also chafe under the inflexible and highly-centralized French government. Concessions to Corsica would redouble the pressure on Paris to allow other regions a greater share of autonomy. (Confidential)



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Danish Prime Minister Proposed New Economic Measures

Danish Prime Minister Jorgensen has proposed increased government spending for public works projects as part of a Social Democratic plan to reduce unemployment.

Jorgensen predicts that the proposal, which would provide funds for the renovation of public buildings, roads and bridges, energy-saving measures, new traffic projects, and job training, will cut the unemployment rate in half. In addition, the plan calls for a 5 percent reduction in the value added tax to stimulate domestic consumption.

Parliamentary discussion of the plan, scheduled for September 8, promises to be lively. Former Prime Minister Hartling's Moderate Liberals believe the Jorgensen proposals will create a dangerously high budget deficit. The Moderate Liberals favor easing the tax burden on corporations to stimulate investment. (Confidential)

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Dutch Catholic and Protestant Parties Take
a Major Step Toward Unity

The Catholic and Protestant parties in the Netherlands took a major step toward creating the equivalent of a Christian Democratic Union last week when they held their first joint national congress in The Hague. There is still fundamental disagreement over whether non-Christians should be allowed to join the new party, however, and this will make it difficult to achieve a full merger in time for the May 1977 national elections.

The movement to create a broad Christian party dates back more than a decade. The Catholic People's Party and the two smaller Protestant parties--the Christian Historical Union and the Anti-Revolutionary Party--have been allied in government coalitions throughout the post-war period.

The growing secularization of Dutch society since the late 1960s, along with the electoral losses of the congressional parties, have lent impetus to moves toward unification. The dominant Labor Party, which now leads the present five-party center-left coalition government, and the opposition Liberal Party on the right have been the principal beneficiaries of the defections from the confessional parties.

At their joint congress, the three parties reconfirmed their plans to run a

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single slate of candidates in the next national elections. This sort of unity has already been adopted on the local level in various parts of the country. All recent nation-wide political polls indicate that the new party, dubbed the "Christian Democratic Appeal" would fare better than the three parties would by running separately.

Catholic and Protestant politicians are counting on the merger to halt further gains by Labor and other leftist parties which, if unchecked, might permit these parties to govern alone. At present, Labor Prime Minister den Uyl must rely on the support of the Catholic People's Party and the Anti-Revolutionary Party to remain in power.

The chief stumbling block to completing the merger is the demand voiced by some Protestants in the Anti-Revolutionary Party at the Congress that all leadership positions be reserved only for those willing to take a religious loyalty oath. The three parties have already agreed to open the party to all and they have too much at stake politically to allow this remaining difference to wreck their plans for merger.
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